

Application No.: 10/588,155
Inventor: KAGAYA
Docket No.: MIY.001.0045.PC

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended claim 8 to correct a typographic error. Support for the claim amendment, in as much as it affects the scope of claim 8, can be found at least at page 47, line 7 – page 48, line 15 of the original specification.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 – 16 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102 as allegedly anticipated by US 6,996,724 (Murakami). Applicant traverses the rejection.

With regard to claim 1 and those claims depending therefrom, claim 1 includes, *inter alia*, the limitations that “a data division unit configured to divide the secret information into a plurality of divided data by using a secret sharing scheme, such that the secret information can be recovered from a prescribed number of the divided data,” and “a data re-division unit configured to generate a plurality of re-divided data different from the plurality of divided data obtained by the data division unit, from a combination of the prescribed number of the divided data among the divided data stored in the deposit servers by using the secret sharing scheme.” The data division unit and the data re-division unit generate the plurality of divided data and the plurality of re-divided data by using a secret sharing scheme, such that the secret information can be recovered from a prescribed number of the divided data. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 15 and 16 describe similar features.

By contrast, Murakami describes a secret key generating method for generating a secret key of an entity in ID-NIKS (ID-based non-interactive key sharing scheme). In Murakami, an ID vector l_a (identification information showing name, address, or the like) of entity a is divided into a plurality of ID division vectors l_{aj} ($j=1,2 \dots J$). Then, the j -th center extracts a row vector, which corresponds to the ID division vector of entity a , from the symmetric matrix H_j and carries out XOR on all of the components of the extracted row vector with an individual random number α_{aj} so as to be generated as a secret key vector S_{aj} . Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Murakami fails to disclose the plurality of divided data and the plurality of re-

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divided data by using a secret sharing scheme.

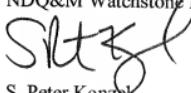
Consequently, because Murakami fails to describe each and every element of claims 1, 15 and 16, and those claims depending therefrom, as those elements are arranged in the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that Murakami is insufficient to support a rejection under 35 USC § 102. Along the above lines, “[t]here must be *no difference* between the claimed invention and the reference disclosure, as viewed by a person of ordinary skill in the field of the invention.” *Scripps Clinic & Research Found. v. Genentech, Inc.*, 927 F.2d 1565, 1576 (Fed. Cir. 1991) (emphasis added).

The rejection should be withdrawn

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees to Deposit Account No. 14-1437. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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